

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

OMB-01 IO-11 ACDA-05 /075 W
----- 029107

R 111136Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3932

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L CASABLANCA 0176

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR PFOR PGOV AG MO SS

SUBJ: UMT DEPSEC GEN ON SAHARA CONFRONTATION WITH ALGERIA

1. UMT DEPSEC GEN ABDERRAZZAK SHARES THE GENERAL ATTITUDE PREVALENT IN CASABLANCA THAT MOROCCAN PROGRESS IN CONSOLIDATING ITS SAHARA POSITION IS SATISFACTORY AND THAT WAR WITH ALGERIA UNLIKELY. (PEOPLE IN CASABLANCA GENERALLY SEEM REMARKABLY COMPLACENT OR ILL-INFORMED OR BOTH). HE LIKewise DISMISSES POLISARIO AS A FEW HUNDRED YOUNG PEOPLE WITHOUT ENOUGH DEDICATION TO BE A SERIOUS CONTINUING THREAT.

2. ACCORDING TO ABDERRAZZAK, UNFP LEADER ABDULLAH IBRAHIM'S CONSPICUOUS ABSENCE FROM GROUP OF PARTY LEADERS INVITED ALST WEEK TO MEET WITH THE KING FOR A BRIEFING ON THE SAHARA IS PERFECTLY UNDERSTANDABLE IN VIEW OF UNFP'S PAST POSITION. (UNFP REFUSED TO COOPERATE IN KING'S MULTIPARTISAN INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE LAST YEAR, REGARDED IT AS GOVERNMENT, NOT PARTY RESPONSIBILITY, REGARDS SAHARA AS NATIONAL, NOT PARTY ISSUE. IBRAHIM HAD REFUSED KING'S REQUEST TO GO AS EMISSARY TO USG ON SAHARA ISSUE.) THUS IBRAHIM HAS NOT BEEN AND DOES NOT WISH TO BE PART OF PARTY LEADERS' GROUP WITH WHOM KING CONSULTS.

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3. ABDERRAZZAK DOES NOT THINK THERE WILL BE NATIONAL ELECTIONS

THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF SAHARA ISSUE. DOES NOT BELIEVE GOM WILL MOVE TO TAKE TINDOUF BUT, LIKE ALMOST EVERYONE ELSE, HE INSISTS VEHEMENTLY THAT TINDOUF AND COLOMB BECHAR ARE MOROCCAN TERRITORY. HE THINKS MOROCCAN PEOPLE WILL EVENTUALLY FORCE GOM TO "TAKE" BOTH PLACES.

4. PREDICTABLY HOSTILE TO ALGERIANS, HE IS CONTEMPTUOUS OF PRESENT (ALG POL PARTY) LEADERSHIP, SAYS ALL THE WORTHWHILE LEADERSHIP LONG SINCE PURGED. BOUTEFLIKA IS CORRUPT, DISHONEST (TALKS PRO-MOROCCAN HERE BUT IS ACTUALLY AN ALGERIAN HAWK). HE CLAIMS TO KNOW PERSONALLY OF SEVERAL CASES WHERE BOUTEFLIKA (AND TO LESS, UNSPECIFIED EXTENT, BOUMEDIENNE) HAS TAKEN RAKEOFF ON EXPORTS OF MOROCCAN PRODUCE TO ALGERIA.
BRUBECK

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